

INSIDE.

Her Haven

A Medina Home Splashed in Color

BY LISA PATTERSON | PHOTOS BY DANE GREGORY MEYER



Check out the checkered wood floor. That was done when the home was originally built and helps tie the “classic-with-a-twist” feel that can be seen throughout the home, Jacobson said.



From the outside, this 6,500-square-foot Medina home whispers, “Hi, I’m traditional,” with its grand entry, large windows and neutral color palette. It’s pretty, familiar and comfortable. But step inside and this home shouts whimsy, creativity and high style.

“My home is my haven,” said Nancy Cirillo, a busy mom of three boys who co-owns NaLa Seattle, a fitness clothing line. “I walk in at the end of the day and feel comfortable, protected and at ease. It’s bright to me, literally and figuratively. It makes me smile!”

The home was designed in 2002 by Cirillo with Sullivan Conard Architects, completed in 2004, and has five bedrooms, four full baths and two half baths. It’s designed with living in mind – no room or piece of furniture is off limits. Even the family dog, Lola, is allowed to kick up her paws and relax. “I think only twice has something been broken that was out on a table for décor,” Cirillo said. “I don’t fret that stuff. Live in a space that fills your spirit. If something breaks, you can replace it.”

Cirillo enlisted the help of her friend and designer, Nichole Jacobson, owner of Jacobson Interior Design, a Bellevue business she started in 1998. The East-side native and University of Washington graduate is married to her high school sweetheart, who owns a home construction firm. She has worked on hundreds of projects.

“My design approach is energetic, yet precise and

articulate,” she said. “More importantly, however, it’s to help clients realize that decorating and design does not have to be a mystery, burden or an additional source of anxiety.”

The home was beautiful when Cirillo hired Jacobson, but the homeowner wanted to bring modern and whimsical elements and pops of color to the previous traditional French furnishings that dominated the spaces. “There were a lot of high-quality European furniture pieces we were working with. I put bold, contemporary fabrics on these pieces and I wanted to make sure the integrity of the overall look of the furniture paired with the timeless house design and wouldn’t be compromised by our selections,” Jacobson said.

It was a fun project and the homeowner and designer worked as a team. “She is such a vivacious person and brought a lot of energy and fun to the project. She has her own sense of style and natural good taste, but didn’t get bogged down by the details,” Jacobson said. “She and I definitely worked as a collaborative team. This mutual respect resulted in a project we were both very happy with.”

The end result?

“It’s traditional with a whimsical, eclectic girlie-glam twist, but still durable for the boys to rough ‘n’ tumble in the hallway and crash on the sofa to watch T.V.,” Cirillo said. “Blissful.” >>



The dining room walls (pictured on the previous page) are adorned with Kelly Wearstler wallpaper. "I decided to paint the ceiling blue to tie in the blue tones from the upholstery and draperies. Some theories are that painting a ceiling closes in the room, but in this case it sure looks like sky to me," Jacobson said.



"The Louis XIV ghost chairs around the kitchen table was also a fun update for the kitchen space and also very practical as the acrylic can easily be wiped clean," Jacobson said.

ON A BUDGET?

For those who are on a budget but still want the expertise of a designer's input, Jacobson created an online service called Instant Space. The DIY service costs about \$895 to \$1,795. All you do is fill out a questionnaire, send in your measurements and some inspirational photos. She works with the client's budget to design a master plan that includes a concept board and plans for fabrics and finishes. She ships it to the client so they can start shopping and creating a designed room. "It's an alternative way to keep the designer in the mix even while on a budget," Jacobson said.





The homeowner and designer decided to keep the kitchen conservative in regard to color. "Nancy loves to cook and entertain and a neutral kitchen palette allows foods and the people it hosts to add the color," Jacobson said. "As we know, kitchens are always the epicenter of a party!"

Most of the fabrics and patterns came from the Trina Turk line. "I started with the ikat for the settee and went from there adding animal prints, bold prints and varying textures. One of the more fun transformations was lacquering a French side chair hot pink and reupholstering it in a beautifully soft, textured velvet of the same color. I then added a touch of nailhead on the armrests for some bling!" Jacobson said.

RESOURCES

Architect: Sullivan Conard Architects, Seattle

Builder: Fulks Inc. Construction, Seattle

Interior Designer: Nichole Jacobson, Bellevue





Nichole Jacobson

DON'T BE SCARED

The use of color and patterns can transform a room, Jacobson said. "It's a shame people are often afraid of it." Here are some of her tricks to pull patterns and bold colors together for a cohesive, harmonious look:

»Begin with an existing carpet, wall-paper or paint color, then use bold fabrics elsewhere in the room to "anchor" the overall color scheme. Include a good mix of small-, medium- and large-scale patterns. It's OK to mix floral with stripes, ikat with circles or paisley with animal prints but you must repeat each pattern (or the fabric's main color) at least once elsewhere in the room.

»If you use patterned wallpaper, vary the scale and step it up or down from a pattern on upholstery, bedding or drapes in the same room. Don't worry if the colors match perfectly. But make sure all your patterns have at least once color that is similar.

»A rule of thumb when decorating (DIY or otherwise) is to honor the space. Although we incorporated fun elements (a ceramic deer head above the mantle, a skin rug on the floor, a glossy retro sideboard in the dining room) the scale and proportion still flow with the home's overall traditional elements which creates unity.

»Eclectic can easily transform into "hectic." Eclectic layering means putting obviously disparate elements together, but in the end there should be a relationship and a melding, resulting in the seamless integration of a mélange of time periods, styles and ethnicities.



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